

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3403

November 21, 2002

The Honorable Robert Zoelick
U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street Northwest
Washington, DC 20508-0001

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

We write to express our disappointment that the Administration's commitment to act quickly to bring a WTO case against the Canadian Wheat Board has not been honored.


On October 3, we met with you and Secretary Evans to discuss what actions the Administration would take to assist our wheat farmers in responding to the unfair trade practices of the Canadian Wheat Board, which were extensively documented in the positive determination in the Section 301 trade case filed by the North Dakota Wheat Commission. At that time, you informed us that a case against the Canadian Wheat Board would be initiated imminently in the WTO. Your staff subsequently indicated to us and to the wheat industry that a case would be filed within days.

Unfortunately, this commitment has gone unfulfilled. Our farmers continue to experience the negative effects of unfairly traded imports. And repeated requests for information on when a case might be filed have gone unanswered.

Continued inaction on this issue would be devastating to American wheat farmers. We urge you to act immediately to fulfill the Administration's commitment by filing the promised WTO case.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,


KENT CONRAD
MAX BAUCUS